

Consumer price levels

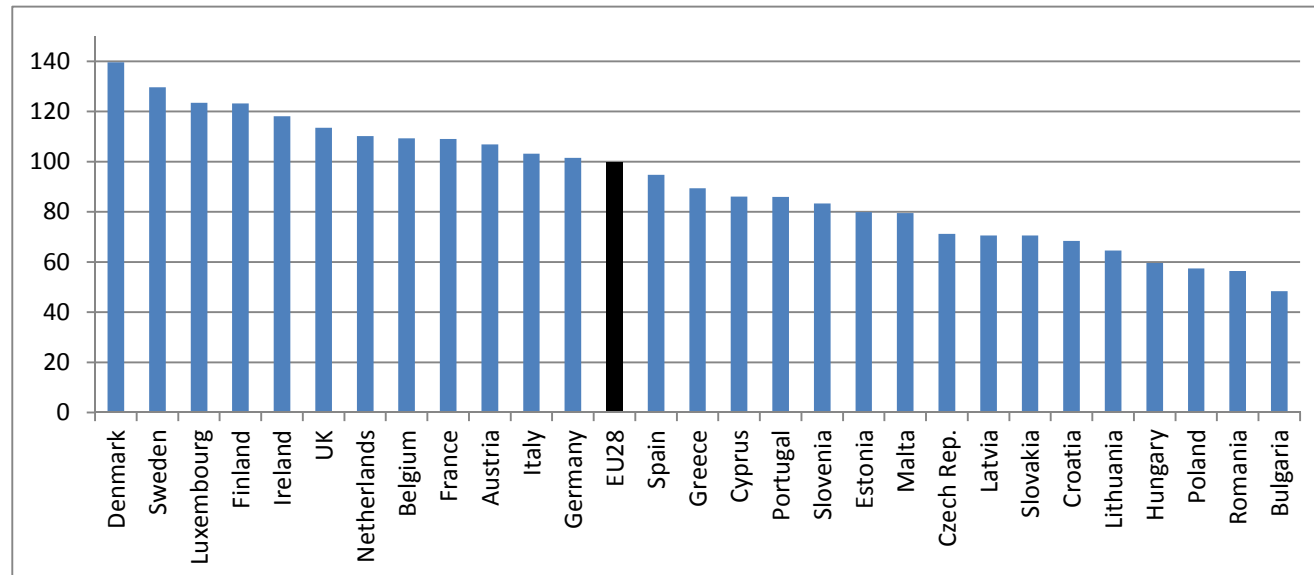
Price levels varied in 2013 from 48% of the EU28 average in Bulgaria to 140% in Denmark

In 2013, price levels for consumer goods and services¹ differed widely across Member States. **Denmark** (140% of the EU28 average) had the highest price level, followed by **Sweden** (130%), **Luxembourg** and **Finland** (both 123%). Price levels of 10% to 20% above the EU28 average were found in **Ireland** (118%), the **United Kingdom** (114%) and the **Netherlands** (110%), while **Belgium** and **France** (both 109%), **Austria** (107%), **Italy** (103%) and **Germany** (102%) had levels less than 10% above the average.

Spain (95%) was just below the EU28 average, while **Greece** (89%), **Cyprus** and **Portugal** (both 86%), **Slovenia** (83%), **Estonia** and **Malta** (both 80%) were between 10% and 20% below. Price levels at around 30% to 35% below the average were observed in the **Czech Republic**, **Latvia** and **Slovakia** (all 71%), **Croatia** (68%) and **Lithuania** (65%), and levels at around 40% below in **Hungary** (60%), **Poland** and **Romania** (both 57%). The lowest price level was found in **Bulgaria** (48%).

These data come from an [article](#)² published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Price level indices for consumer goods and services, 2013 (EU28=100)



Food price levels varied from 62% to 140% of the EU28 average

Price levels for food and non-alcoholic beverages in 2013 ranged from 62% of the EU28 average in **Poland** to 140% of the average in **Denmark**. Differences in price levels between Member States were less pronounced for this product group than for the total of goods and services. For alcoholic beverages and tobacco, prices were lowest in **Bulgaria** (59% of the average) and highest in **Ireland** (178%). This large price variation is mainly due to differences in taxation of these products among Member States.

Clothing is one of the groups of products showing a smaller price variation among Member States, with **Hungary** (75% of the average) cheapest and **Sweden** (130%) most expensive. Consumer electronics is another group of products where prices differed less among Member States, ranging from 86% of the average in **Poland** to 113% in **Denmark, Cyprus** and **Malta**.

With the exception of **Denmark** (155% of the average), price differences among Member States were also limited for personal transport equipment, with levels varying from 81% of the average in the **Czech Republic** to 117% in the **Netherlands**.

For restaurants and hotels, price variations were more significant, with price levels ranging from 47% of the average in **Bulgaria** to 149% of the average in **Denmark**.

Price level indices for consumer goods and services¹, 2013 (EU28=100)

	Total	Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Clothing	Consumer electronics	Personal transport equipment	Restaurants & hotels
EU28	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgium	109	112	96	106	107	103	116
Bulgaria	48	69	59	82	95	85	47
Czech Republic	71	84	78	91	92	81	58
Denmark	140	140	124	124	113	155	149
Germany	102	108	90	102	94	98	97
Estonia	80	88	83	106	104	87	77
Ireland	118	117	178	98	105	111	128
Greece	89	102	92	94	103	94	88
Spain	95	93	87	87	99	101	91
France	109	108	108	104	104	104	111
Croatia	68	93	77	94	103	94	74
Italy	103	112	98	107	99	97	110
Cyprus	86	108	97	89	113	92	97
Latvia	71	87	84	103	97	88	75
Lithuania	65	78	73	101	100	88	64
Luxembourg	123	118	86	101	94	95	107
Hungary	60	80	66	75	94	86	53
Malta	80	100	99	94	113	101	89
Netherlands	110	97	108	105	103	117	115
Austria	107	122	90	97	95	104	106
Poland	57	62	73	90	86	85	75
Portugal	86	90	86	95	99	116	77
Romania	57	69	74	87	101	87	52
Slovenia	83	99	83	98	101	88	86
Slovakia	71	88	80	99	94	84	68
Finland	123	123	135	118	109	114	128
Sweden	130	125	141	130	110	108	146
United Kingdom	114	101	161	93	102	97	108
Iceland	112	120	171	137	141	117	123
Norway	155	177	259	141	111	160	189
Switzerland	156	150	120	119	94	106	152
Montenegro	56	78	57	96	97	87	63
former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	47	59	38	77	92	85	42
Serbia	54	75	53	98	90	84	50
Turkey	64	85	100	68	96	108	78
Albania	51	69	42	69	103	79	42
Bosnia & Herzegovina	53	75	50	92	97	85	59

1. The data in this article are based on the results of price surveys covering more than 2400 consumer goods and services across Europe, which are part of the Eurostat-OECD Purchasing Power Parity program. Price level indices (PLIs) provide a comparison of countries' price levels relative to the European Union average: if the price level index is higher than 100, the country concerned is relatively more expensive than the EU average, while if the price level index is lower than 100, then the country is relatively cheaper than the EU average. The EU average is calculated as the weighted average of the national PLIs, weighted by expenditure corrected for price level differences.

The overall price levels included in this News Release relate to the concept of household final consumption expenditure (HFCE), which consists of all expenditure incurred by households on goods and services for consumption, including also rents for housing. HFCE does not include expenditure on goods or services that are consumed by households but incurred by government or non-profit institutions, for instance, government education services or healthcare. Furthermore, the HFCE does not include purchase of housing. The following subcategories are shown in this News Release:

Subcategories	Include
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	Bread and cereals, meat, fish, milk, cheese, eggs, oils and fats, fruits, vegetables, potatoes, other food, non-alcoholic beverages
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	Spirits, wine, beer and tobacco
Clothing	Clothing materials, men's, women's, children's and infant's clothing, other articles of clothing and clothing accessories. Excludes cleaning, repair and hire of clothing
Consumer electronics	E.g. televisions, DVD players, receivers, audio systems, MP3 players, cameras, camcorders, desktop and laptop computers, monitors, printers, scanners, software, music CDs, movie DVDs, empty CDs and DVDs. Excludes repair of such equipment.
Personal transport equipment	Motor cars, motor cycles and bicycles and excludes maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment, spare parts and fuel.
Restaurants & hotels	E.g. restaurants, cafés, pubs, bars, canteens, hotels, youth hostels.

The subcategories shown in the News Release comprise only a part of total HFCE, and therefore the total price level index for a Member State is not the aggregation of these six subcategories.

2. Eurostat, Statistics Explained article, "**Comparative price levels of consumer goods and services**": http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Comparative_price_levels_of_consumer_goods_and_services

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For further information on the data:

Louise CORSELLI-NORDBLAD
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Barbara KURKOWIAK
Tel: +352-4301-36 652
barbara.kurkowiak@ec.europa.eu

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